

The Founding of Halifax. Halifax, the present capital of Nova Scotia, was founded in 1749, at the expense of the British Government, under the direction of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, and was named in compliment to George Montagu, third Earl of Halifax, then at the head of the Board.

From the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, when Acadia was ceded to Great Britain, to the year 1749, no progress was made in the colonization of the country by the British. The inhabitants consisted of a few Acadian peasants, scattered along the shores of the Basin of Minas, Chignecto, and in the Annapolis Valley. The Governor resided at Annapolis Royal, which was then a small fortified port, with a garrison of two or three hundred regular troops, and dependent, in a great measure, upon New England for necessary supplies. The only other British port in the Province was Canso, where, during the fishing season, a number of French, with a few Indians and New England fishermen, assembled, and where a small guard was stationed to preserve order and protect the rights of property. The French population, though professing to be neutral, were completely under the control of a few designing emissaries of the French Governor of Quebec, who had undertaken to claim all the country from the River St. Lawrence to the Bay of Fundy, as within their jurisdiction, confining the territory of Acadia as ceded under the Treaty of Utrecht, to the peninsula of Nova Scotia.

The establishment of a permanent British settlement on the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia had long been considered the only effectual means of preserving British authority and protecting the coast fishing industry which at the time was deemed of paramount importance. A plan for carrying into effect this long cherished design was matured by the Board of Trade and Plantations in 1748 and under the sanction of the Government's approval, advertisements soon appeared in various English papers "holding out proper encouragement to officers and private men lately discharged from the Army and Navy, to settle in Nova Scotia." Among other inducements was the offer to convey the settlers to their destination, maintain them for twelve months at the public expense, and, to supply them with arms and ammunition for defence, and with materials and